

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-10 and 20-22, cancel claims 11-19, and add new claims 23-46 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising: of supporting at least two types of message service in a mobile communications system, wherein the at least
receiving a session initiation protocol message transporting one of at least two
types of message service, a first message service being real-time and a second message
service being bulk, two types of message service are transported by a SIP message,
wherein the session initiation protocol message comprises a control portion of each SIP
message including, and wherein the control portion comprises an identification of the
type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising:
wherein a
processing a session initiation protocol message transmitted message is processed
in dependence on the identification in the control portion of the session initiation protocol
message.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the control
portion is a header of the SIP session initiation protocol message.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the control portion is a value field of the SIP session initiation protocol message.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising:
~~wherein all messages are processed~~
processing said session initiation protocol message by an application associated with the ~~second~~first message service type.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the session initiation protocol message transports the second type of message service ~~for messages of the first type, and wherein~~ the application associated with the ~~second~~first message service type forwards the session initiation protocol message to an application associated with the second messages service ~~of the second~~ type.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the ~~at least two~~ types of messaging service include a first type of messaging message service is dependent upon ~~reliable~~instant delivery and a the second type of messaging service is dependent upon ~~instant~~reliable delivery.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein the ~~first~~second type of messaging message service comprises at least ~~is one of a:~~ short message service; an extended message service; ~~or~~ and a multimedia message service.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein the ~~second~~first type of message service is comprises an instant messaging service.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~mobile communications system comprising: in~~ which at least a first and second type of message service are supported, wherein the system includes

a first application server and a second application servers, wherein the first application server is configured to:

~~associated with the at least the first and second message service types, wherein the first and second types of message service are transported by an SIP~~ receive session initiation protocol messages ~~to the first application server, each SIP of the session initiation protocol messages including comprising a control portion identifying one of at least a first message service type and a second message service type, the first message service type being real-time and the second message service type being bulk, wherein the first and second types of message service are transported by the session initiation protocol messages the type of message, wherein the first application server is adapted,~~ and

~~to direct~~ session initiation protocol messages of the second ~~type~~ message service type to the second application server.

11-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

~~application server of a mobile communications system in which at least a first and second type of message service are supported and in which the application server is associated with the first of said message types, wherein the~~

a receiver configured to receive a session initiation protocol message transporting first and second types of message service are transported by an SIP message to the application server~~one of at least two types of message service, a first message service being real-time and a second message service type being bulk, said each SIP session initiation protocol~~ message including a control portion identifying the type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message, wherein said apparatus is associated with the first message service type; and

a transmitter wherein the application server is adapted configured to direct the session initiation protocol messages of the second message service type to a further application server~~apparatus.~~

21. (Currently Amended) An application server apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the apparatus comprises ~~consisting of an~~ Internet multimedia subsystem application server.

22. (Currently Amended) An ~~application server~~ apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the further ~~server is~~ apparatus comprises a multimedia messaging service applications server.

23. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the control portion of the session initiation protocol message comprises a header field.

24. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the control portion of the session initiation protocol message comprises a value field.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the first type of message service is dependent upon the instant delivery of an associated message.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the first type of message service comprises an instant messaging service.

27. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the second type of messaging service is dependent upon reliable delivery of an associated message.

28. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the second type of message service comprises at least one of: a short message service, an extended message service, and a multimedia message service.

29. (New) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the internet multimedia subsystem application server is configured to store and forward session initiation protocol messages in dependence on the control portion identifying one of the message service types.

30. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the apparatus is configured to utilize the control portion to identify the type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message.

31. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the control portion comprises a P-header, and the apparatus is configured to utilize the P-header to identify whether the session initiation protocol message is intended for an instant messaging service application or a multimedia messaging service application, and wherein the presence or absence of the P-header identifies the type of message service of the session initiation protocol message.

32. (New) An apparatus according to claim 20 further comprising a transmitter configured to direct session initiation protocol messages of the first message service type to a second further apparatus, said second further apparatus being an application server associated with the first message service type.

33. (New) A method according to claim 1 further comprising utilizing the control portion to identify the type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message.

34. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein the control portion comprises a P-header, and the method further comprises utilizing the P-header to identify whether the session initiation protocol message is intended for an instant messaging service application or a multimedia messaging service application, wherein the presence or absence of the P-header identifies the type of message service of the session initiation protocol message.

35. (New) A method according to claim 5 wherein the session initiation protocol message transports the first type of message service, and wherein the application associated with the first message service type forwards the session initiation protocol message to a further application associated with the first message service type.

36. (New) A method, comprising:

transmitting a session initiation protocol message transporting one of at least two types of message service, a first message service type being real-time and a second message service type being bulk, wherein the session initiation protocol message comprises a control portion, and wherein the control portion comprises an identification of the type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message.

37. (New) A method according to claim 36, wherein the control portion comprises a header of the session initiation protocol message.

38. (New) A method according to claim 36, further comprising defining in the control portion the identification of the type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message.

39. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein the control portion comprises a P-header, and the method further comprises setting the P-header if the multimedia messaging service application is used to create the message, and not setting the P-header if the instant messaging service application is used to create the message.

40. (New) A method according to claim 36, wherein the control portion comprises a value field of the session initiation protocol message.

41. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
a transmitter configured to transmit a session initiation protocol message transporting one of at least two types of message service, a first message service type being real-time and a second message service type being bulk, wherein the session initiation protocol message comprises a control portion, and wherein the control portion

comprises an identification of the type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message.

42. (New) An apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the control portion comprises a header of the session initiation protocol message.

43. (New) An apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the apparatus is configured to define in the control portion the identification of the type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message.

44. (New) An apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the control portion comprises a P-header, and the apparatus is further configured to set the P-header if the multimedia messaging service application is used to create the message, and configured to not set the P-header if the instant messaging service application is used to create the message.

45. (New) An apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the control portion comprises a value field of the session initiation protocol message.

46. (New) A computer program product comprising computer readable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving a session initiation protocol message transporting one of at least two types of message service, a first message service being real-time and a second message service being bulk, wherein the session initiation protocol message comprises a control portion, and wherein the control portion comprises an identification of the type of message service transported by the session initiation protocol message.